

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
3001 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3001
Tel 919-733-7011 • Fax 919-508-0951


Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director

August 31, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Area Program/LME Directors

FROM: Mike Moseley 

RE: Reorganization of Whitaker School

I wanted to write and inform you of our plans for Whitaker School. As you know, Whitaker School serves two distinct groups of clients; students with mental health issues and students with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and mental retardation. Combining these two populations within the same service environment can be extremely challenging for both staff and students. In an effort to more adequately meet the needs of both groups of students and to provide better maintained environments; we will be transferring 18 of the 36 current beds at the Whitaker School to create a special adolescent MR/MI Unit within the Murdoch Center at Butner. The remaining 18 beds will be relocated to improved space administered by John Umstead Hospital. All current Whitaker School employees will be reassigned to either Murdoch Center or JUH. Both programs will continue to provide services statewide.

Let me assure you that we are not closing the school but are making changes that will allow us to more effectively provide for student needs in an improved physical environment. I believe that these moves will better provide the necessary specialized resources needed for the students at Whitaker School and will improve their environment. This transition will be occurring over the next few weeks and additional information will be forthcoming. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Cliff Hood, Business Manager, John Umstead Hospital 919-575-7201 or Dr. Aleck Myers, Director of Murdoch Center at 919-575-1000.

MM/ph

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom
Allen Dobson, MD
DMHDDSAS Executive Leadership Team
Management Team
State Facility Directors

Carol Duncan Clayton
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MH Commission Chair
Coalition 2001 Chair
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